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Our
PUBLIC LANDS

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Our PUBLIC LANDS



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COVER

Construction of recreation facilities under the Accelerated Public Works program will be of lasting value to those who love the beauty of nature in the raw. This table is situated on a canyon rim overlooking Angel Peak in San Juan County, N. Mex.

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—a Department of Conservation—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Stewart L. Udall, Secretary

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Charles H. Stoddard, Director

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—A "Stockholders' Report"

Bureau of Land Management Source and Application of Funds Fiscal Year 1963

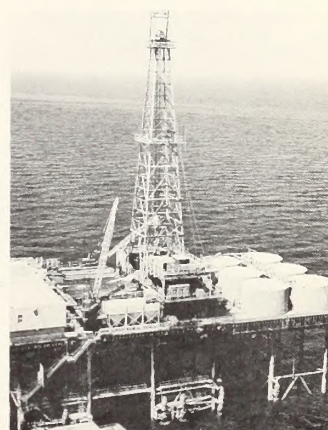
ALL RECEIPTS:

Receipts from mineral leasing-----	\$458,377,262
Sale of public lands and materials-----	3,382,561
Grazing fees-----	4,027,587
Receipts from timber sales-----	33,628,924
Miscellaneous-----	4,276,326
Total receipts-----	530,692,660

LESS PAYMENTS:

To States and counties-----	\$61,452,316
To Treasury for range improvements-----	1,247,730
	62,700,046
To Treasury for general purposes-----	467,992,614
Expenditures authorized by Congress-----	60,655,589

**INCOME TO TREASURY
IN EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES----- \$407,337,025**





THE overland livestock drive, once widely practiced to get steers and lambs to the railroad, is vanishing from the West.

Along with it are going the chuck wagon, the remuda, and other "legendary sights" from the open range.

Even so, each October travelers on U.S. 60 across the Plains of St. Augustine in west central New Mexico still may glimpse a few scenes from the past. That is the month the nearby Magdalena Stock Driveway, one of the few such remaining driveways, comes briefly to life as a "hoof highway." Wistfully, city dwellers travel hundreds of miles each year to watch the show, expecting each trail drive to be the last. Only 1,432 cattle and 855 sheep were trailed on the driveway in 1963.

At its peak, the driveway stretched 125 miles westward from Magdalena into Arizona and varied in width from 1 to 5 miles. It contained 128,000 acres of grama and other forage grasses. As many as 65,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep traveled the driveway annually during the fall months. Cattle averaged about 10 miles a day on the trail, sheep about 5.

The driveway was set aside from open range under the 1916 Grazing Homestead Act and has been administered since by the General Land Office, then the Grazing Service, and eventually by the Bureau of Land Management. It has undergone about 40 modifications through the years, mostly reductions in size. In the 1930's the Civilian Conservation Corps fenced it and developed water wells at 10-mile intervals.



Where Cowboys Still Ride

by Doyle Kline

Resource Utilization Specialist

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Cowboys still drive their stock to market—once a year along the Magdalena Stock Driveway. It provides the city dweller a rare glimpse at a vanishing era.

Coffee is shared by Ed Farr, left, with Virgil Pate, BLM Socorro District Manager, while Clonie Vicente, the horse "wrangler," chops wood for evening meal. Fire was built in deep pit for Dutch oven.

As it stands today, the driveway is 70 miles long, contains 70,800 acres, and retains most of its original width. It has been administered since 1961 under the Taylor Grazing Act and the Federal Range Code.

The driveway has been slow to die even though changing livestock operations and modern highways have made it generally more economical to move cattle and sheep by truck, and the Santa Fe Railroad has been considering the abandonment of its spur line to Magdalena.

During World War II, to support wartime demands for meat, grazing of the driveway was permitted during the winter. This practice was continued as trailing use of the driveway dwindled.

Predominant use of the driveway for winter grazing





led BLM in 1962 to reduce its width to a maximum of 1 mile, leaving an area of about 21,000 acres. Its 7 mile length was retained. BLM proposed that "ne range thus created be allotted under the Taylor Grazing Act to qualified ranchers.

The reduction order was appealed by a group of ranchers who contend the present width is necessary to permit trailing herds to pass on the driveway without intermingling.

BLM's reduction order was upheld in 1963 by Dent D. Dalby, Salt Lake City hearing examiner. Dalby's ruling likewise was appealed. Reduction has been held up pending eventual final determination.

Meanwhile, serenity is the rule along the driveway. Cattle and sheep graze as before. Antelope have roamed the plains since time began, and probably will continue to do so. Hawks, ravens, and an occasional eagle hunt in solitude on the plains.

This is the pastoral aspect of the land that travelers find so appealing. The spectacle of the trail herd and its cowboys, whose presence often is first announced in the crystalline distance by a thin veil of dust, usually is sufficient to halt the traveler, who peers through binoculars or camera at this scene from yesterday. If the herd is close enough, he may experience the sounds and smells common to another time.

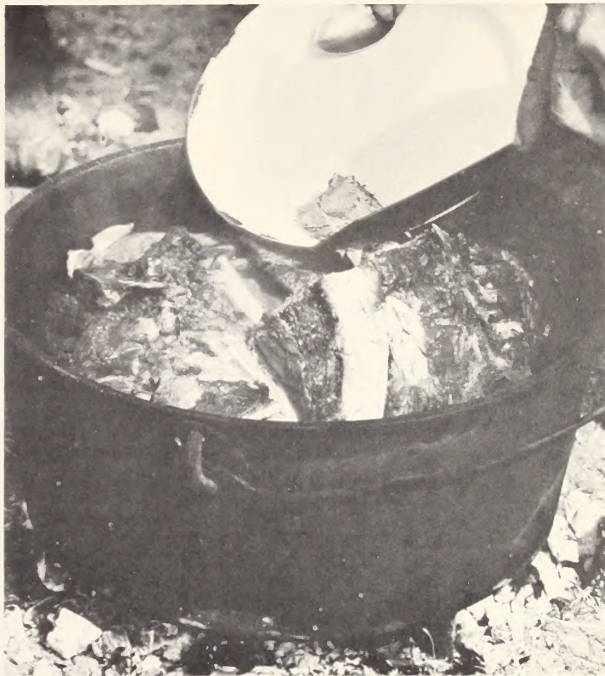
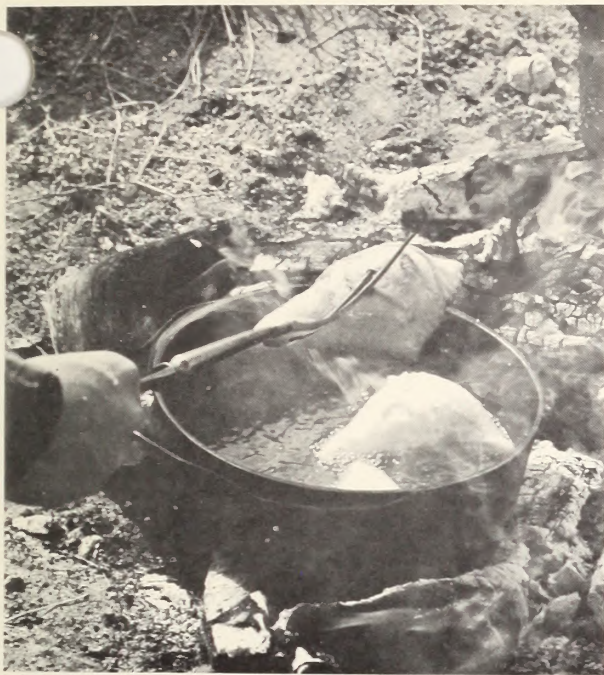
To a local rancher, however, trailing cattle is just another facet of the year-round ranching business. George Farr of Datil, N. Mex., has trailed his market herds over the driveway nearly every year since it was established.

Farr no longer rides with his cowboys, leaving that job to his sons, Dave and Ed. The work is hard, especially if the weather turns bad, and trail cooking, though tasty and nourishing, lacks the woman's touch.

So it is that sometime, somewhere along the route, the Farr women usually meet their husbands for lunch, bringing the children, and freshly-baked cake or other treats from home. The setting usually is a watering place beside a grove of trees. All share and enjoy the meal, prepared over an open fire, fragrant with juniper smoke.

Then the women and children return home and the drive continues its slow progress along this route that retains its flavor of the Old West.

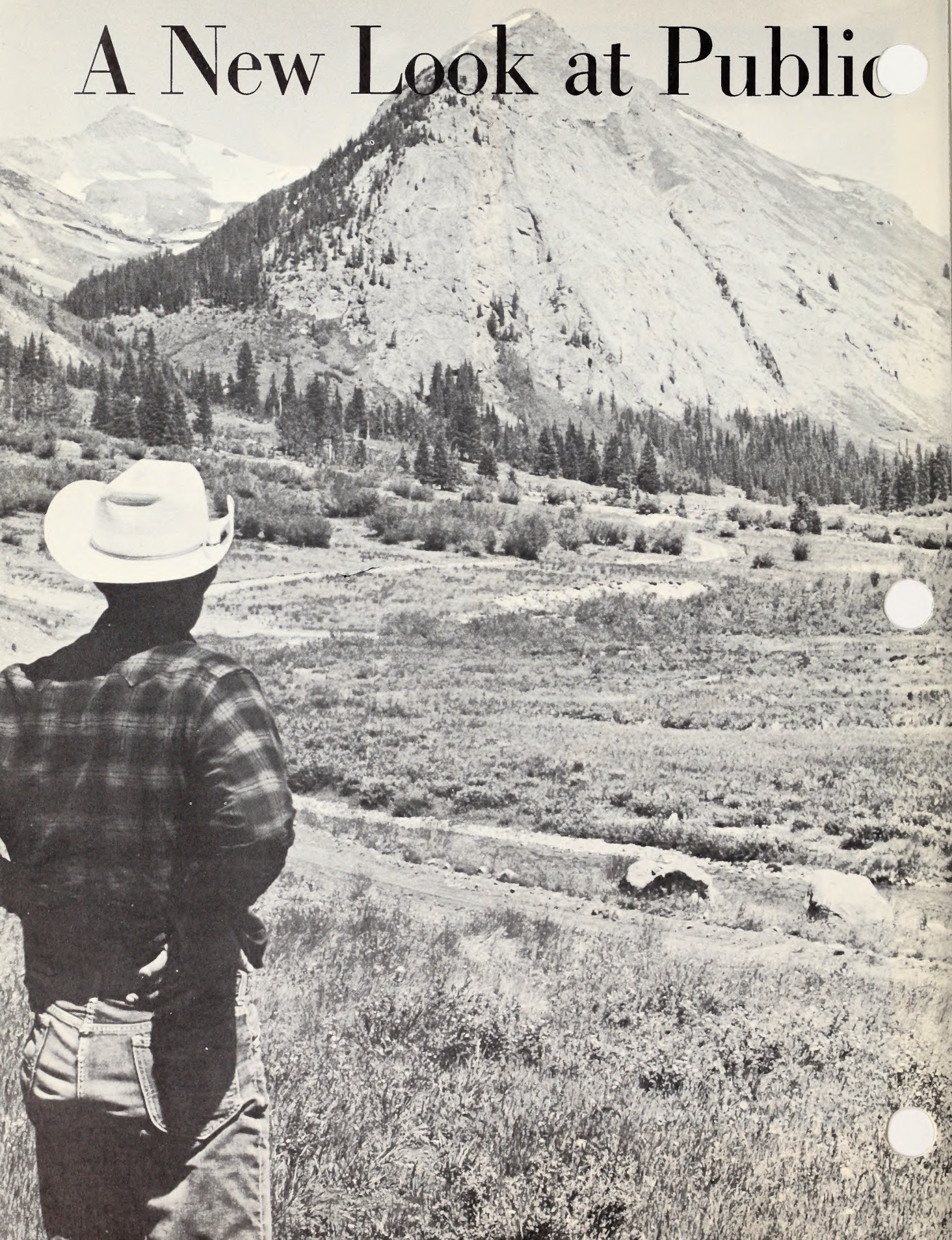
When the wives meet their husbands on the trail, cooking takes a turn for the better. Mrs. David Farr rolls dough for sopaipillas (bread fried in deep fat).



At left above, the dough placed in the smoking fat soon turns golden brown, in time to eat with roast beef from the Dutch oven (at right). Below, hungry Vicente ignores his whinnying, and hobbled, mount.



A New Look at Public



Land Management

by Charles H. Stoddard

Director, Bureau of Land Management

THE 1963 platform of the National Association of Counties was prefaced by a strong and moving appeal: "The National Association of Counties, dedicated as it is to combating centralization in government, does now call upon every county in the United States of America immediately to prepare itself for the assumption of the greater governmental responsibilities which lie just ahead so that local governments across the Nation may justify the faith and confidence which have been reposed in them by the people."

To the counties containing public domain lands within their boundaries, and to the towns and cities in these counties, this statement is taking on a new significance. Among the "greater governmental responsibilities" these local governments will soon be assuming is a larger voice in shaping the future of the public lands. To them I repeat the platform's advice: Prepare yourselves.

The machinery for formal consultations between local officials and planners and BLM field men on public land classifications is now being readied. The goal: to wisely and equitably consider what should be done with public lands lying in the vicinities of growing communities. With the West's population booming, the public domain adjacent to population centers is under tremendous pressure from urban and industrial expansion, recreation and other uses.

Intelligent forward planning requires that local governments and organizations participate fully in discussions concerning the future use of this land. By making us aware of local land needs and desires, both long-range and immediate, community representatives with help us to administer the public lands in the highest interest of the American public.

It is clear that our current resource output will have to be stepped up tremendously to meet anticipated demands. It is also obvious that growing communities are going to need new land to grow on. Much of the burden of meeting tomorrow's raw material needs and providing room for expansion in the West is falling on the public lands.

As the Federal administrator of these lands, BLM is preparing them for the future. The first step has been to inventory the land and identify it in accordance with its highest potential. Our land identification program is well underway. For purposes of study, we have divided BLM lands into large segments which we are calling Master Units. There are 256 of these units, each being an area which, for a variety of reasons, forms a homogeneous area for the collection and analysis of fundamental data.

From these studies, we find that the land falls into three general categories. First, the larger concentrations of land lend themselves to intensive multiple-use management and are likely to remain in Federal ownership for the foreseeable future. Long-term management planning for resource development on these areas is not only practicable but an absolute necessity. Under efficient management, capital investments in such areas will be prudent. Secondly, the lesser concentrations of lands which are intermingled with private and other

Much of the burden of providing tomorrow's recreation needs will fall on the public lands.





Camping in the mountains is becoming so popular that existing facilities of the Nation have long waiting lists. Growing pressures of urban life will accelerate the outdoor trend.

public holdings will need special cooperative management because of their changing conditions, until an appropriate program can be determined. Third, there are scattered and fragmented parcels which in large part are suitable for transfer to private or local government ownership in order to meet pressing social and economic needs.

We are confident that this inventory program will permit the public lands to make a full economic contribution during the critical decades ahead. But it is at this turning point in public land management, at this juncture, when the fate of the public lands is largely being decided by our present actions and plans, that we seek the fullest possible coordination with local administrators and planners.

Under the authority of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, BLM, acting for the Secretary of the Interior, has the authority to classify public lands for transfer under the various public lands laws. In the discussions

we are currently planning, representatives of local governments would participate in classifications of nearby lands by systematically reviewing BLM findings and expressing their own ideas of proper land use. We will want to include as many potential land users as possible in these discussions.

For the most part, the consultations will necessarily center around the third category of lands—the scattered tracts that are subject to classification for one of many possible types of transfer, depending on the nature or location of particular parcels and their highest and best use. However, considerable attention will also be given to the second category. Our primary aim will be to jointly determine how these lands can best serve both local communities and the Nation. When it is determined that a tract of land is suitable for transfer to local ownership, when the local community can demonstrate its need for the tract, when it has the plans and means for proper land development, the land can be made available.

Informal consultations on land classification have been taking place in many areas, in connection with Master Unit studies and other activities. Details of the formal discussions, though, are currently being worked out in "pilot projects" in San Diego and Las Vegas.

Each community, of course, is a unique entity with its own particular needs and problems. Each must develop its own land management program. I suggest, though, that every such program designed for the acquisition of public lands should include some basic enabling powers. Among these are: (1) the right to acquire easements or similar limited rights to privately owned lands; (2) the ability to assure orderly land development; and (3) the authority to acquire land under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. I would further suggest that governmental units in public land States which do not have such authority should take immediate steps to acquire it from the State governments.

Opportunities for orderly community growth—the opportunities are provided by such laws as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act and the Small Tract Act, and orderly growth is a basic motive behind the classification discussions.

How is such growth actually achieved?

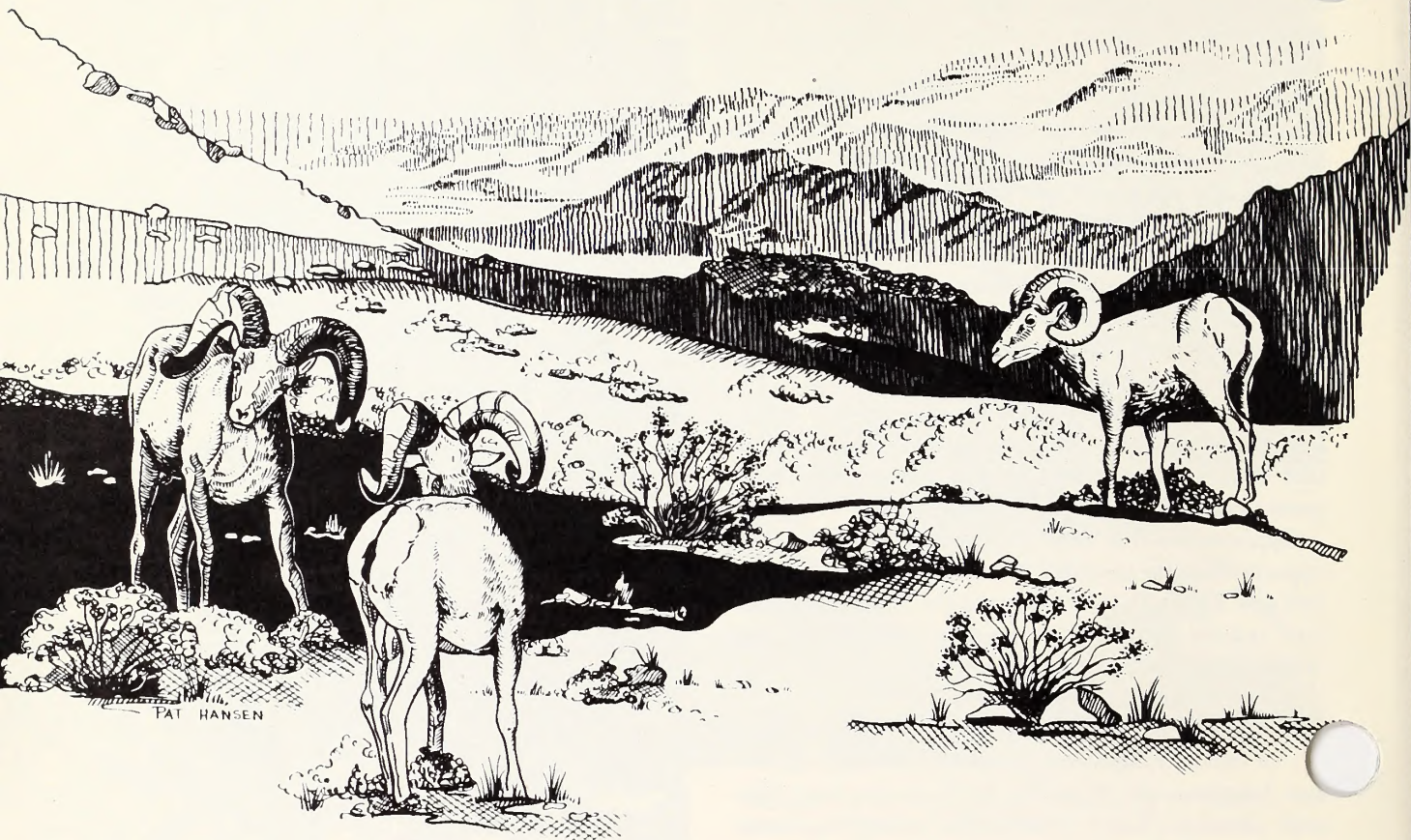
Through good planning. Planning is at the heart of our land management program. Without it, our best intentions for the public lands are no more than pipe dreams. Local communities—counties, towns and cities—will soon have a critical role in determining the fate of some of these lands. In this role, they will have increased opportunities for land acquisition; but it will only be through adequate preparation that they can take advantage of these opportunities. Public lands will be available to counties and towns that have developed professional plans and programs for using the land.

The plans that local communities develop now will help us to determine, in the spirit of cooperation, how the public lands can best serve local needs and those of the American public as a whole.

Most cities today are faced with the suburban explosion problem, including those in the West. Local communities with surrounding public lands should prepare themselves to take full advantage of opportunities for orderly growth.



Where the Bighorn Still Stands



by Sherman Pearl

Writer-Editor, Washington Office

PICTURE the rocky terrain of a mountain range in the West. Imagine the time to be midmorning on a crisp clear day late in November, and the place to be the mating ground for a herd of bighorn sheep. Now, if your imagination is active, you can animate the scene with a spectacular show—the head-on, horn-shattering clash of battering rams.

The hostilities may start without warning. Many mammals enter combat with a challenge—elk bugle, lions roar, buffalo paw the ground—but the bighorn ram saves his strength for the tank at hand. Rivals may simply glare at each other and shake their heads. Each backs away to get a good running start and then, as if at a given signal, they charge with cannonball force. When the heavy horns collide, the clang can be heard for a mile around. This contest will continue through many such collisions (sometimes accom-

panied by sharp kicking) until one of the gallant gladiators is too exhausted or battered for more.

Unfortunately, this is a drama you're not likely to view in person. Once among the more common and wider ranging of North American big game mammals, bighorns have become rare and cautious creatures who inhabit some of the roughest, least accessible areas of the West. From an estimated high of 2 million, bighorn populations have dwindled over the past century to around 25,000, not including those in Alaska. The cause of the decline? Civilization, mostly. There were other factors, such as poor range conditions and overgrazing, which helped diminish these superb animals, but civilization's encroachment on bighorn ranges was the most important. Civilization brought guns and plows, cattle and domestic sheep (which brought the devastating disease, scabies), and the bighorns retreated.

Many of the survivors were more or less permanent residents of the highlands who made the most of their amazing climbing talents. Others adapted to lower elevations in semiarid country, where they remained isolated from western development. Having achieved relative safety in their remote domains, they have been fairly stable over the past several years and, in some areas, have even shown population increases.

Much of today's "bighorn country" is included in the Nation's public domain lands. These lands—some 464 million acres in the 11 Western States and Alaska—are administered by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management. The animals on public lands are under the jurisdiction of the various States, but BLM is responsible for improving public land habitat for many forms of wildlife, including bighorn sheep.

There are several varieties of bighorns in the United States, ranging from the small desert form of the Southwest to the beautiful Dall sheep of Alaska, the most numerous among bighorn types and the only wild white sheep in existence. Biggest of all is the relatively

populous Rocky Mountain race, whose full-grown rams exceed 300 pounds and ewes average nearly 200. Though they live in diverse habitats, all bighorns are natural mountaineers. Their concave, sharply edged hoofs act as suction cups to grip even the slightest footholds; their legs are strong and springy and their movements agile; their hearts are full of courage. These attributes serve them well on the precipitous slopes which are home to so many of them. From their high vantage points they can survey their domain, quietly scanning the deep gorges and canyons below with great golden eyes, ready to climb or descend at the first sign of danger.

It's a rare bighorn that lives alone. Except for an occasional old ram, these animals band together in two basic groups: the main flock, consisting of ewes, lambs and young rams and led by an elderly ewe; and the small, imposing cluster of mature rams, not usually more than six in number but magnificent because of the huge curling horns that each carries. For most of the year the two cliques are aloof to one another, but when autumn chills hit the air they begin to associate

BELOW: Mother and newborn lamb remain isolated from flock for week after birth.



BELOW: Stately bighorn ram surveys his rugged mountain domain.



more and more closely, a prelude to the combat that comes with winter (or with fall in the case of the desert bighorn). It is for these struggles, though, that the rams have been equipped with their great horns (which grow for 7 or 8 years and sometimes curl into a complete circle); and it is in these struggles that they achieve their fullest glory.

The ewe, too, finds fulfillment in the mating season, for about 6 months later she becomes a mother. In a sheltered spot on the flock's summer range she drops her lamb. Once in a while twins are born, but ordinarily the ewe gives birth to just one shaggy, pale-brown infant. In just an hour or so the lamb is able to stand on its wobbly legs to nurse. For the first week of its life the lamb is constantly with its mother, isolated from the flock, but then the two join in the daily life of the band. By the following winter the new bighorn will weigh about half as much as its mother and will

acquire some of the fat and the heavy coating that characterize its elders during the cold season. Another year or two it will be ready to play its inevitable role in replenishing the species.

The earliest account of bighorns by a European was written in 1540 by the Spanish explorer Coronado. After venturing into the unmapped mystery that was to become California he wrote:

"They have many animals—bears, tiger, lions, porcupines and some sheep as big as a horse, with very large horns and little tails. I have seen some of their horns, the size of which was something to marvel at."

Bighorn sheep have been causing explorers and naturalists—whoever encountered them—to marvel ever since. To those who have not had this experience, though, it can be stirring just to know that from mountain peaks to desert valleys, the flocks still abide with the courage, grace and dignity that is their heritage.



CONSERVATION BRIEFS

...FROM THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Massive Rebuilding Effort Mapped for Alaska

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall—in line with President Johnson's Alaska pledge—has marshaled the full resources of the Department to rebuild Interior Department facilities and operations in earthquake-stricken Alaska. The effort is being coordinated under the leadership of Edward A. McDermott, Director of the Office of Emergency Planning.

A special Interior task force, headed by Under Secretary James K. Carr, is coordinating estimates of damage and appraisals of the time and money required to get back into operation.

The Secretary instructed the task force to give first priority to "backbone" economic facilities, including the Alaska Railroad, which has suffered damages estimated at \$20 million.

Priceless land records in the office of the Bureau of Land Management were badly jumbled and will have to be removed from the Cordova Building, which was condemned following the earthquake.

A first-hand report on the damage came from Robert E. Wolf, assistant to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Wolf, who has been designated a Special Assistant to the Under Secretary to coordinate Departmental Programs, flew to Alaska on the day following the disaster.

Hearings Held on Rampart Power Site Classification

Public hearings on the question of withdrawing public lands along Alaska's Yukon River near Rampart for possible power use were held in Alaska on February 13, 14, and 15 and in Washington, D.C., on March 24. Testimony was limited to merits of the classification, which would have the effect of partially withdrawing public lands from entry. The Rampart Canyon power project, as proposed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, would harness the Yukon River in the vicinity of Rampart, Alaska, forming a 10,500 square-mile lake (twice the size of Lake Erie) from Rampart to the Klondike Region . . . approximately 9 million acres of land involved, most of which lies in the public domain. According to Corps of Engineers, the project would eventually produce 4.7 million kilowatts of hydroelectric power.

National Advisory Board Council Holds 24th Annual Meeting

The 42-member NABC met in Washington, D.C., on March 18-20, and discussed community assistance in public land management, Alaskan grazing problems, zoning and resource planning, flexible pasture management and proposed regulations, among many other items. Purpose of the group is to advise the Secretary of the Interior and Director of Bureau of Land Management on matters relating to management and development of the Nation's 465 million acres of public lands.



More New Facts About Our Agricultural Land Laws

by Ken Satterfield

Range Conservationist
Battle Mountain, Nevada

THE dew of the summer's night still hung heavy on the deserted farmstead as the sun broke over the hills to the east. First rays of light in the gray of dawn revealed crumbling remains of many months of work—dwarfed by the vastness of the lonely desert valley. Surrounding rocky hills looked so close yet were miles away.

Fence posts stood alone with a single strand of wire occasionally in place, stopping only a few of the many tumbleweeds from finding their way across the barren flat.

A lone, small house, the windows broken, door ajar and with no paint to protect it from the weather, stood at one end of the weed-covered field. Scattered pieces of rusted plow discs, drawbars, harrow teeth and other discarded hardware dotted the brush-covered yard and fields.

This illustration is not an exaggeration nor is it only a single case of failure for a homesteader. A study being conducted by the Bureau of Land Management indicates that failures on lands patented under the existing agricultural land laws are more prevalent than are generally realized by prospective entrymen.

Old-Fashioned Laws Today

A recent article in *Our Public Lands* (July 1962) pointed out some startling facts concerning the acquisition of public lands under the Homestead, Pittman Act, and Desert Land laws. It described these laws, dating back to 1862, as outdated, old-fashioned and not applicable to our present-day economy and land resources. Since that time, more detailed facts have been learned.

Homesteading

By almost any measure, except to the individuals involved, homesteading in the Western States during the decade of the 1950's was a minor matter. A little

more than 4,000 applications were filed, of which some were approved to the extent of permitting the applicants to go upon the land to try their luck as homesteaders. By the end of 1962, a total of 230 homesteaders received patents—while some 190 had given up. The remainder still had time to prove up.

From experience with the applications to date, the expected record for the period when it is finally closed will appear as follows: about 14 percent of the applications will have been allowed and 86 percent rejected. About 60 percent of the allowances will be in two States, Nevada and Utah. Of all the allowed entries, 50 to 60 percent will have been patented.

How About Alaska?

Homesteading in Alaska, often referred to as the "last frontier," never did go beyond minor proportions, considering the length of time and the great area of lands involved. Sixty-five years of homesteading in that State so far has led to about 10,000 claims. Of these, 3,250 have gone to patent, with some claims still pending. As a result, about 400,000 acres, only one-tenth of 1 percent of the land area of the State, has been transferred into private ownership through homesteading.

Desert Land Entries

Applications under the Desert Land Act, applicable only in 13 Western States, totalled about 20,000 in the 10-year period. Of these applicants, some 3,300 were permitted to go upon the land to develop it. By the end of 1962, a total of 1,250 had received patents while 1,100 had given up. Almost 1,000 still had time to reclaim the lands.

Experience to date indicates that eventually about 20 percent of the applications will have been allowed. Patents will probably issue for 50 to 60 percent of the allowed entries, two-thirds of which were in two States, Idaho and Nevada.

Pittman Act in Nevada

The Pittman Act, operable only in Nevada, was almost a complete failure. Out of 1,700 applications, 172 were allowed, and two went to patent by the end of 1962. Only a few remained uncanceled.

Activities initiated under these agricultural land laws during the 1950's resulted in passing about 300,000 acres in the Western States into private ownership by late 1962. Better than one-third of this acreage was in Idaho (134,000 acres). Nevada was next with 46,000 acres and Arizona third with 27,000 acres. These laws



Water is the key to success of a desert land entry. Here are remains of an unsuccessful project.

did not prove to be a very significant means of getting lands into private ownership. Public sales during the same period transferred 1,200,000 acres out of public ownership.

In terms of actual cultivation of lands, the objective of these laws, the results are even smaller. Studies in the summer of 1962 of the lands patented by 1961 showed a total of about 125,000 acres cultivated in the Western States. About 60 percent of the cultivated lands were in Idaho. Most of the farming appears to be in support of the livestock industry—alfalfa, grass, and small grains being the principal crops. Cultivation in Alaska homesteads is negligible and has very little economic bearing on any particular field of agriculture.

In terms of acreage patented within the scope of the study, cultivation amounted to almost 60 percent of the lands patented under the Desert Land Act, about 30 percent of the lands in the Western States patented under the homestead acts, about 2 percent of the lands patented in Alaska under the homestead acts, and none of the lands patented under the Pittman Act.

Very few public domain acres provide suitable sites for agricultural development any more. The homesteader on this tract didn't prove up.





By 1962, 40 percent of the patented entries had changed ownership in their entirety and another 5 percent partly. In Alaska, 84 percent of the entries were estimated to be unoccupied or devoted entirely to nonfarm uses.

Costs of Making an Entry

In order to arrive at some cost figure for the handling of applications, examination of the lands, analyses of the situation including investigations, prosecutions, appeals, protests, hearings and supplying information to the public, the conservative estimate of \$300 per application is used to illustrate the magnitude of the operation. The total costs for handling the applications filed in the Western States during the 1950's amounted to about \$8 million—or perhaps about \$20 per acre transferred to private ownership.

These would be merely the costs of transfer—costs of development would be additional and in individual cases can amount to as much as \$150 per acre. It seems altogether reasonable to conclude that quite often social costs of transfer of lands under the agricultural land laws in the 1950's exceeded the raw land value of the transferred land.

The Present Situation

At the present time, the only States in which any appreciable amount of activity is taking place are Idaho and Nevada. The future holds very little promise for acquiring lands through the Homestead, Desert Land, or Pittman Act laws. The public domain no longer

Homesteaders who receive their final patents have reason to be proud. During a 12-year period recently, only 230 out of 4,000 applications went to patent.

provides suitable lands for agricultural development and the horse and buggy laws which encourage people to attempt to homestead in the face of the odds we have seen fall short of today's needs.

Presently, action is being taken to do away with some of these old laws as a matter of economy for the Government and the prospective applicant, and as a means of updating them to meet the present day situation.

The Steubenville District Land Office was the first to be erected in the Northwest Territory.



A Story of Cooperation

by Richard S. Greenland

Murray District Manager
Murray, Utah

THIS is a story of cooperation—and the happy results.

In the Government Creek Grazing Unit of the Federal range—approximately 60 miles southwest of Murray, Utah—there was a real problem about a decade ago. Involved were some 38,000 acres of Federal range administered by the Bureau of Land Management, 3,520 acres of State land, and 5,480 acres of privately owned land. The range had progressively deteriorated as a result of excessive use and something had to be done. A meeting was called of the Government Creek Cattle Association. BLM personnel and the 13 cattle operators who ran some 1,200 head of cattle in the area began to make plans.

The number of livestock run on the unit was reduced 45 percent and a uniform grazing season was established between the dates of May 16 and October 15 of each year. The unit was divided into four grazing pastures by building 32 miles of fence. Sagebrush, pinon, and juniper trees were removed and 5,485 acres were seeded to crested wheatgrass. Much of the area around waterholes was rated in “poor” condition so 10 more springs and waterholes were developed to provide better distribution of the livestock. Livestock trails were built to further aid in distribution of the cattle, and various other projects were done to facilitate operations within the unit, such as the installation of cattle guards.

The cost of all developments amounted to \$82,453, of which \$12,172 was contributed by the permittees who ran cattle in the unit.

All of the projects developed have proven beneficial and successful in bringing about better management and rehabilitation of the land within the Government Creek Unit.

For the past 3 years, livestock have been grazing in the crested wheatgrass pastures at the rate of 3.5 acres per animal unit month whereas the same lands prior to the seeding were rated at 18 acres per AUM. (An AUM is an amount needed to feed one cow for 1 month.) Besides that, use of the crested wheatgrass pastures has lightened the grazing load on the native vegetation in other parts of the unit, particularly during spring use which is critical on native ranges. As a result, the native vegetation itself is responding to natural rehabilitation and the range has improved from “fair” to “good” condition.

Because of this recovery of the range as a result of management practices and range improvement projects started in 1953, the Bureau, starting with the 1964 grazing season, will restore to the permittees 7 percent of the adjustment made 10 years ago.

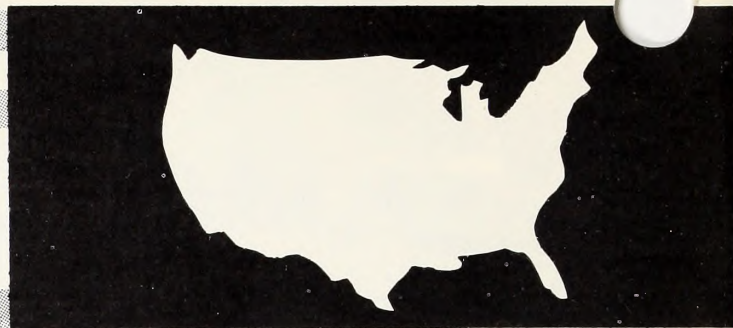
Another aspect of the management of Government Creek Unit has been the wildlife. The mule deer population now appears to be in line with the available browse plants and, furthermore, the numbers appear to be static so that proper use of the range prevails without conflict between wildlife and livestock.

The story of Government Creek Unit—where 8,500-foot Simpson Mountain rises as a landmark in the area—points out what can be accomplished from progressive thinking and through cooperative efforts of livestock men and the BLM. Graziers of the Government Creek reside in the vicinity of Delta, Vernon, and Grantsville in Western Utah.

As a result of their patience and willingness to cooperate, these livestockmen will benefit materially from the improvements made in the Government Creek Unit. They will have increased livestock production from the unit, both in numbers and in flesh condition.



active acres



Robert J. Smith Will Head Bureau's Wildlife Program

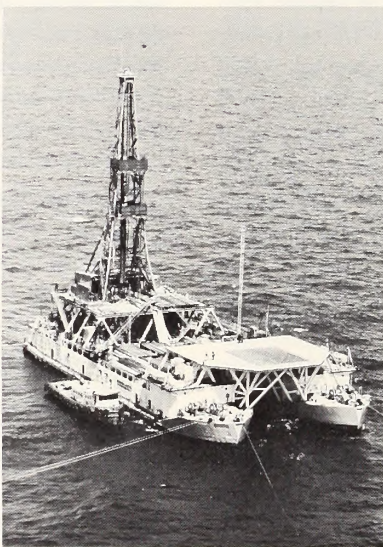
The Bureau of Land Management has appointed Robert J. Smith, 44, to head up its wildlife program on the Nation's public lands. Smith is the former director of Arizona's Game and Fish Department. Smith will coordinate BLM's cooperative efforts with State fish, game, and parks agencies.

Smith is a native of Chadron, Nebr. He served as an Air Force navigator in the Pacific during World War II. After his discharge he attended the University of California at Berkeley, where he received a degree in wildlife conservation in 1948. After graduation he went to work for Arizona's wildlife agency, rising to the directorship in 1958.

Smith joined the BLM, he said, because of the tremendous challenge of public land management. "With our population and our affluence growing rapidly," he commented, "there are more and more people who have the money and leisure time to spend on recreational activities—including those connected with wildlife. More and more of these people are coming to the public lands for outdoor recreation. We must be ready to meet their needs."

Interior Announces Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales

Interest is high in offshore oil and gas leasing off the West Coast. More than 1 million acres of submerged lands on the Outer Continental Shelf off Washington and Oregon will be offered for lease



An all-depth offshore drilling rig, complete with heliport.

sale on October 1, 1964, by the Bureau of Land Management. The offering will cover 254,000 acres off Washington, and 836,000 off Oregon.

This sale follows by about a year the first Interior Department offshore lease sale on the West Coast. A sale for lands off northern California was held in May 1963.

New drilling and production techniques have made oil operations possible off the West Coast, where greater depths are encountered than in the Gulf of Mexico. At the request of the oil industry, leasing maps of the entire Continental Shelf off Oregon and Washington have been extended from a water depth of 100 fathoms, to 500 fathoms (3,000 feet).

Another offshore area will be offered for lease sale on April 28, 1964. Twenty-eight tracts covering nearly 32,000 acres of submerged lands in Outer Continental Shelf Zone 2 off Louisiana will be available in this Gulf Coast sale.

The opening of the area for leasing is necessary because of drainage by oil and gas wells leased in adjacent zones. Monies collected from Zone 2 leasing go into an escrow fund pending settlement of the Federal-State boundary questions by the Supreme Court.

Interior Agencies Record Good Year for Fire Protection

About 376 million acres of land received fire protection from Interior agencies during 1963. Cost of damage and acreage of fire loss on these lands for the year were kept considerably below averages for the previous 3 years.

The Department's land managing agencies—Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs

fairs, National Park Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife—showed 279,211 acres of range, forest, and woodland were burned in 1963. Average annual burn on the same lands during the previous 3 years was 394,429 acres.

Interior agencies spent \$3,300,315 to fight fire between January 1 and October 15, 1963. This expenditure held total estimated fire damage on Interior-managed lands to \$672,921, as compared with an average damage cost of \$2,545,265 during the years 1960, 1961, and 1962.

Interior Department Issues Four in Series of State Resources Booklets

The Department of the Interior has issued four in a series of 50 State resources publications. Natural resources booklets of Arizona, Colorado, Ohio, and Washington are now available; the completed series will consist of a booklet for each of the 50 States.

Each booklet is richly illustrated with photographs showing the variety of the State's resources, which range from parks and recreational resources to lands, water and minerals, to the Indians and their resources.

In addition to the geography, physical features, and natural resources of the particular State, each booklet highlights the programs of Federal natural resource agencies that contribute to developing and conserving these resources.

The State resources booklets will inform and appeal to individual readers across the country. In addition, the series contains excellent material for elementary and high school classroom studies of history and geography.

Additions will be made periodically throughout the coming months until the 50 booklets are

available. The booklets published may be obtained for 50 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

Indian Allotment Application Rejected by the Secretary

An application for 160 acres of public grazing land near Craig, Colo., filed by Kiowa Indian Amos A. Hopkins-Dukes, has been rejected by the Secretary of the Interior on the grounds that the land cannot qualify for allotment under an 1887 act providing 160-acre allotments for Indians.

Long-established Interior rulings have held that allotted lands must be capable of supporting an Indian family. In his decision, Secretary Udall said that the land Hopkins-Dukes had applied for can support only two cows on a year-round basis, and that economic ranch operations in the area required 100 animals.

Before the Secretary's ruling, publicity concerning Hopkins-Dukes' applications stirred considerable interest among Indians in Colorado, Wyoming, and Oklahoma. Secretary Udall issued a strong note of caution to Indians, saying, "While the Indian Allotment Act is still open to bona fide applicants, there is very little likelihood that suitable land could be found on the public domain today."

He pointed out that the Indians' relation to the allotment law is the same as all citizens' relation to the homestead laws. All citizens are born with a homestead right, but only a handful will receive homesteads because of the lack of good agricultural lands in the public domain.

Action on an Idaho range fire during a recent fire season. Fire loss on Interior-managed lands during 1963 dropped dramatically.



Twenty-three States Share \$21 Million in Mineral Check for 6-Month Period

Twenty-three States received U.S. Treasury checks totaling \$21,097,453.52 as their share of \$50,641,741.15 in bonuses, royalties, and rentals from mineral leasing on Federal lands within their boundaries during the last 6 months of 1963.

All the States except Alaska receive 37.5 percent of the Federal Government's mineral revenues from lands within their borders.

Alaska receives 90 percent under terms of its Statehood Act. Federal mineral revenues in Alaska during the 6-month period totaled \$4,020,477.69, of which 90 percent

went to the State, and 10 percent to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury.

The Reclamation Fund received 52.5 percent of \$46.6 million (the grand total less receipts from within Alaska), or nearly \$24.5 million. The Treasury's General Fund received 10 percent of the grand total, or slightly over \$5 million.

The payments were presented to State officials by field officials of the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of the Interior agency that administers the mineral leasing laws.

The July 1-December 31, 1963, distribution brought to \$46,592,634 the total payments made to the States from receipts received during calendar year 1963.

Lands leased under administration of the Bureau of Land Management include public lands, acquired lands, and certain privately owned lands containing minerals reserved to the Federal Government.

Minerals leased under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, which provides for the receipts distribution, are oil, gas, potash, sodium, sulphur, coal, and phosphate.

The largest individual check went to the State of Wyoming which received \$6,793,128.69. There followed: New Mexico, \$4,287,300.01; Alaska, \$3,618,429.92; Colorado, \$1,603,929.43; Utah, \$1,567,891.77; and California, \$1,311,260.99.

Semi-annual Mineral Payments to States

<i>State</i>	<i>1963 (July 1 to Dec. 31)</i>	<i>1963 (Jan. 1 to June 30)</i>	<i>1962 (July 1 to Dec. 31)</i>
Alabama.....	\$437.63	\$1,738.68	\$1,330.41
Alaska.....	3,618,429.92	5,028,806.14	3,417,321.42
Arizona.....	109,093.91	153,223.03	53,436.26
Arkansas.....	40,904.40	50,022.30	43,686.66
California.....	1,311,260.99	1,477,150.05	1,172,526.70
Colorado.....	1,603,929.43	1,873,075.05	1,448,090.51
Florida.....	47.81	76.22	33.37
Idaho.....	370,517.18	37,679.38	166,047.90
Kansas.....	73,802.12	93,323.32	64,351.61
Louisiana.....	123,355.64	60,268.62	54,640.08
Michigan.....	1,275.69	2,081.33	1,545.19
Mississippi.....	3,008.80	11,397.27
Montana.....	910,700.26	1,096,011.43	952,929.15
Nebraska.....	1,335.38	5,708.62	2,355.00
Nevada.....	86,529.94	91,990.75	54,685.13
New Mexico.....	4,287,300.01	5,335,897.26	4,117,493.75
North Dakota.....	92,875.40	95,948.32	303,335.82
Oklahoma.....	27,624.42	38,182.87	45,627.37
Oregon.....	970.13	1,960.89	202.52
South Dakota.....	72,833.00	43,897.54	61,562.00
Utah.....	1,567,891.77	2,270,898.48	1,499,932.96
Washington.....	201.00	264.75	978.81
Wyoming.....	6,793,128.69	7,633,870.52	6,432,142.64
Total.....	21,097,453.52	25,403,472.82	19,894,255.26



Reseeding of a pipeline lateral to crested wheat was one of the projects undertaken on the Huerfano Range Conservation Area. This is pinon-juniper type range, characteristic of millions of Western areas.

Bureau Reports Accomplishments and Plans for the Future

A report to the public on the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management accomplishments in fiscal year 1963 summarizes this conservation agency's programs and activities during the past year.

A complete revision of the rules governing the public's applications for public lands (Part 296, Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations) described in the report is expected to speed up handling of applications for land which must be

classified or otherwise made available for lease or sale.

According to the report, BLM received \$530 million from the sale and management of public lands and resources during the fiscal year. Principal sources of revenue were mineral leases and permits, timber sales, sales of public lands and materials, grazing leases and licenses, fees and commissions, and rights-of-way leases.

BLM's receipts, according to the report, placed \$468 million into the general fund of the U.S. Treasury; \$61 million went to 27 public land States; \$1.2 million was returned to grazing districts for range improvements; and \$4 million was transferred to other Federal agencies. Additional amounts went to Indian trust funds and to the Reclamation Fund.

Other major activities reported include 44 Accelerated Public Works projects in 10 States, and a gigantic timber salvage operation in western Oregon following the Columbus Day storm of 1962. Also reported were accomplishments in forest and range management, public land surveys, land inventories, protection, and mineral leasing. The report also outlines many of the Bureau's plans for further improvement of the public lands.

The Director's report is included in the 1963 annual report of the Secretary of the Interior, which can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402. The price is \$1.75.

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Rainbow Trout

Mono Lake, Calif.

Photo by Jim Yoakum